

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



March 27, 2007

**Couple charged with defrauding RISD of
\$1,000,000 through fraudulent billings for fire safety work**

A federal grand jury in Providence has charged **Patrick Clyne** and **Ibtisama Bradley**, formerly of Providence, with defrauding the Rhode Island School of Design out of more than \$1,000,000 in an alleged fraudulent billing scheme. The couple, who are husband and wife, allegedly set up a shell company and systematically billed RISD for fire safety work that was not performed. Clyne and Bradley are fugitives, believed to be living in Ireland.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente and Peter Zegarac, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, jointly announced an 11-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on March 21 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

The indictment was initially placed under seal, but the prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich, moved yesterday to have it unsealed so the government can begin the process of seeking the defendants' extradition from Ireland.

During the time period covered by the indictment, Clyne was employed by RISD in a position that gave him authority to request and approve fire safety work for the school. In 1997, according to the indictment, Bradley set up Ankh Electric Ltd., incorporating it in Delaware, and opening a bank account and a Post Office box in Rhode Island. Between 1997 and 2005, Clyne allegedly approved fraudulent invoices for fire safety work purportedly performed by Ankh

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Electric for RISD. As a result, RISD mailed checks to Ankh Electric, initially to 88 Manton Avenue, and subsequently to a Post Office box in Providence.

The allegedly fraudulent invoices ranged from a low of \$9,535 in 1997 to a high of \$180,754 in 2003, and totaled \$1,026,399.50 between 1997 and 2005. According to the indictment, Ankh Electric did not provide the services described in the invoices.

The indictment charges Bradley, 58, and Clyne, whose age is not reflected in court records, with one count of conspiracy and ten counts of mail fraud. It also seeks the forfeiture of real estate in Ballinamore, Ireland, and at 67 Ridge Street, Providence, the couple's last known address in Rhode Island.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the maximum penalty for conspiracy is five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum penalty for each count of mail fraud is 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the amount of gain or loss.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case.

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